

So, who is John Jordan, you may ask. Well, in a short sentence, John Jordan helped establish the Penrith Rovers Football Club, making the foundation for what it is today.

Prior to 2000, John had been heavily involved with Jamisontown SC, having coached there after settling in South Penrith after bringing his family to Australia from Belfast.

Following the initial establishment of an O35 team in 1999 (which included Steve Boyd) by Keiron and Cathleen Manning, John perceived an opportunity to create a Premier League team. Players from both Jamisontown SC and Penrith SC were induced to join John at the Rovers and so our story commenced. Times were tough in our early days with no home ground. Steve Boyd, then president of Jamisontown SC, provided assistance in allowing John to train his teams at Southlands (as it was then known). Eventually we were given Harold Corr to share with the Athletics club, having to jump through a few hoops to secure the venue. More details can be found on our early years on our [About](#) page of our website.

Among those players were John's sons, John-Paul and Neil and Chris Dawson, son of club stalwart and life member Bill Dawson.

John's grandson Jack is currently playing in our U16 team. Bill and Steve's grandsons (Eddie and Cooper) are coincidentally playing together in our Rovers U10 Green team. Steve's sons Shannon, Daniel and Luke have all played for Rovers. Luke also coached our Waratah League squad. These three boys had a long association with John from their time at Jamisontown.

Along the way, John had the foresight to look for a training facility so we would not take too much of a toll on the Harold Corr surface, particularly with the growth in the number of teams we fielded. He approached the Cherrywood Village at Llandilo and secured the area at the rear of their property on Terrybrook Road as the official Rovers training facility. Indeed, many trial games were played there also. He and Bill Dawson invested many, many hours to bring the facility up to a fit state.

Eventually, with Harold Corr proving too small for our growing number of teams, a move to Parker Street was negotiated with NDSFA.

2023 marks the 10th anniversary of John's passing and is an apt moment to share John's involvement with the Rovers club. In particular, with the imminent opening of our new facility at Hickeys Road, our thoughts are with John and his family – wife Peggy, sons John-Paul and Neil and daughter Kelly and their collective children. John would be so proud of our current set-up. His toil and endeavours and drive are certainly evident in our new complex; he would have been so proud to see the result of his involvement in the establishment of our mighty Rovers club. Incidentally, John was also heavily involved in the building of the Gaels Club.

So, when your child (or yourself) receives her or his "John Jordan Player of the Match" award, you can be assured that it's not just a token award, but a true reflection on the endeavours of this remarkable man whose spirit is still with us today.